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JOINT CANADA-U.S. PROJECT MAY SAVE MILLIONS IN ROAD REPAIRS

The National Research Council Canada (NRC) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have initiated a project to help North American municipalities save millions of dollars on repairs to city streets. This $3 million project will take three years to complete and will enlist the efforts of over 30 North American municipalities.

Finding a cost-effective and durable restoration solution for utility cuts is one of the most pressing issues facing municipalities and utility companies today. Every day thousands of streets are cut, dug up, and restored to either install or repair services including water, electric, and cable.

These cuts contribute to the rapid deterioration of streets and roadways, resulting in frequent repairs and reducing the service life of the roadway. This translates directly to increased costs for budget conscious municipalities. Current repair practices often result in heaving of the road surface around the utility cuts, as well as, surface cracks or the formation of trenches – a hazard for drivers.

NRC's Institute for Research in Construction (IRC) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Engineer Research and Development Center's Cold Regions Research and Engineering Center (CRREL) have combined their expertise to provide North American municipalities with a guideline for best practice solutions for this problem. "Both the NRC and the U.S. Army Corps bring

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unique capabilities to the project necessary for us to find cost-effective solutions to this problem," said Sherif Barakat, Director General of NRC's Institute for Research in Construction.

Laboratory investigations will investigate the materials used in constructing the roadways and how they respond to traffic and environmental stresses, and computer modeling will be used to predict the response of entire roadways to these same stresses. "CRREL has unique facilities that allow full-scale testing of repair options under controlled conditions to validate the solutions developed," states Dr. Barbara Sotirin, Director, CRREL. On-site investigations will also take place at five demonstration sites across the North American continent.

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